

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 /064 W
-----031057Z 107334 /15

P R 030959Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9331
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 3046

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SG
SUBJECT: SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT (GOS) RESPONDS FIRMLY TO STRIKING
STUDENTS

REF: DAKAR 2892 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED STERN MEASURES TO KEEP UNIVERSITY CLASSES OPEN DESPITE STUDENT STRIKE; THOSE WHO STAND IN WAY WILL BE EXPELLED AND INDUCTED INTO ARMY. PRESIDENT SENGHOR IS TREATING SITUATION AS BEGINNING OF CAMPAIGN FOR 1978 ELECTIONS WHICH HE SEES AS REFERENDUM ON HIS EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY AND OTHER NATIONAL POLICIES. APRIL 30 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING OF GOVERNING PARTI SOCIALISTS (PS) SET GOVERNMENT'S CASE BEFORE PUBLIC. SENGHOR BELIEVES "FOREIGN SUBVERSION" FROM GUINEA THROUGH SUCH LEFTIST SENEGALESE DISSIDENTS AS PROF. CHEIKH ANTA DIOP HAS INFLAMED STUDENT GRIEVANCES. DESPITE PRESENT
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ATMOSPHERE OF CONFRONTATION, SENGHOR PLANS TO BEGIN EUROPEAN TRIP
MAY 2. END SUMMARY.

2. APRIL 30 PS MEETING MARKED BEGINNING OF CAMPAIGN FOR FEBRUARY 1978 LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. SENGHOR'S ADDRESS EMPHASIZED THAT ELECTION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED REFERENCUM ON LONG-TERM GOALS FOR SENEGALESE SOCIETY IN YEAR 2001 WHICH

WERE APPROVED AT DECEMBER 1976 EXTRAORDINARY PS CONGRESS. PROGRAM ENVISAGES SOCIALIST AND DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AND INDUSTRIALIZED ECONOMY WITH PER CAPITA INCOME OF \$600. SENGHOR SAID NATIONAL CONTROVERSY OVER PHILOSOPHY OF SENEGALESE EDUCATION GENERATED BY CURRENT STUDENT STRIKE WOULD BE CENTRAL POINT IN CAMPAIGN. DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, HE SAID, TO LAY ENTIRE STUDENT SITUATION OPEN BEFORE PUBLIC OPINION.

3. PS MEETING SAW IMPASSIONED STATEMENTS ON STUDENT STRIKE BY SENGHOR AND MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION OUSMANE CAMARA. THEY DEFENDED GOS DECISION TO MAINTAIN 15-YEAR POST-GRADUATE PUBLIC SERVICE OBLIGATION FOR FULL-SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS IN FACULTY OF SCIENCE, AND REVEALED STERN MEASURES TO KEEP CLASSES OPEN FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO ATTEND. STUDENTS WHO ATTEMPT TO PREVENT OTHERS FROM ATTENDING WILL BE EXPELLED AND INDUCTED INTO ARMY, SENGHOR ANNOUNCED. SENGHOR AND CAMARA PRONOUNCED DUTY OF STATE TO ASSURE "LIBERTY" OF "SERIOUS STUDENTS" TO PURSUE EDUCATION. SOCIALISM, SENGHOR SAID, ENTAILED SOCIAL JUSTICE, INTEGRAL PART OF WHICH WAS RIGHT OF ACCESS TO EDUCATION.

4. STRIKING ELEMENT IN SENGHOR'S REMARKS WAS ASSERTION THAT INCREASING POLITICIZATION OF FACULTY OF SCIENCE STRIKE RESULTED FROM "FOREIGN SUBVERSION" "TELEGUIDED" FROM ABROAD. "SILENT MAJORITY" OF STUDENTS HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY "SENEGAL'S ENEMIES." SENGHOR SPOKE CONTEMPTUOUSLY OF "OUR PETIT BOUREGEOIS LEFTISTS" WHO CALL FOR "SENEGALIZATION" OF EDUCATION PROFESSION AND CONDEMN RELIANCE ON FOREIGN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BUT THEMSELVES SEEK MAXIMUM SALARIES IN PRIVATE SECTOR. URGING THAT LEFTISTS ENROLL IN CLASSES IN LOGIC, SENGHOR REPEATED PREVIOUS REMARK THAT "TO HAVE

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SENEGALIZATION, WE MUST HAVE SENEGALESE WHO AGREE TO BE SENEGALIZED."

5. CAMARA'S REMARKS INCLUDED MINUTELY DETAILED PRESENTATION OF FIGURES ON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND FEES AND ON SALARIES FOR TEACHERS AT VARYING LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT ACADEMIC WORLD ENJOYS PRIVILEGED POSITION IN SENEGAL. PROFESSORS EARN UP TO 20 TIMES MINIMUM PUBLIC SERVICE WAGE, CAMARA POINTED OUT. THIRTY PERCENT OF BUDGET WHICH SENEGAL DEVOTED TO EDUCATION WAS FAR MORE THAN MOST COUNTRIES.

6. SENGHOR STRESSED THAT NO STUDENT WAS OBLIGED TO BECOME TEACHER OR ACCEPT FULL SCHOLARSHIP AND CONCOMITANT 15-YEAR SERVICE OBLIGATION WHICH HAD BEEN CONCEIVED AS SPECIAL INDUCEMENT TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO ENTER TEACHING PROFESSION IN CERTAIN FIELDS. CAMARA RIDICULED NOTICE OF "LEFTIST" STRIKERS THAT TRUE SOCIALIST COUNTRY WOULD NOT IMPOSE SERVICE OBLIGATION. MOST OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, HE SAID, HAVE "ELITIST POLICY" OF ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS AND PROFESSIONS; STATE DECIDES WHO IS ADMISSIBLE

AND THEN OBLIGES THEM TO SERVE STATE UNTIL RETIREMENT. FIFTEEN YEARS WAS GENEROUS MINIMUM, HE SUGGESTED. "IT IS NOT NORMAL THAT THE STATE SACRIFICE FOR THE YOUNG" WITHOUT THEIR INCURRING A RECIPROCAL OBLIGATION, CAMARA DECLARED. "IF YOU ACCEPT THE SCHOLARSHIP, YOU SERVE THE STATE." CAMARA'S CONCLUDING DECLARATION THAT "REVOLUTIONARIES" WOULD BE CRUSHED RECEIVED STANDING OVATION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAKAR 3046

7. REMARKS ABOUT "ENEMIES" OF STATE AND "SUBVERSION" WERE CLEARLY DIRECTED AT GROUP CENTERED AROUND UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR EGYPTOLOGIST CHEIKH ANTA DIOP, WHOSE UNRESTRAINED ANTI-GOVERNMENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY HAS CONTINUED UNABATED OVER PAST YEAR DESPITE OFFICIAL REFUSAL TO ACCORD LEGAL STATUS TO HIS INCHOATE POLITICAL PARTY. IN APRIL 30 CONVERSATION, SENGHOR TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT GOAL OF DIOP AND OTHER SO-CALLED LEFTIST INTELLECTUALS WAS TO GAIN PUBLIC ATTENTION AND PERHAPS SUPPORT IN YEAR PRECEDING NATIONAL ELECTIONS. SENGHOR NOTED THAT THEY HAD CHALLENGED HIM TO BEGIN CAMPAIGN EARLIER THAN HE HAD PLANNED BUT HE WAS CONFIDENT AND READY. SENGHOR SAID HIS SECURITY SERVICES HAD FOUND CLEAR LINKS BETWEEN DIOP AN SEKOU TOURE AND EVIDENCE OF TOURE'S SUPPORT FOR SENEGALESE DISSIDENTS. NON-STUDENT AND TRAINED STUDENT AGITATORS HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AND WOULD BE EXPELLED, AND THOSE WHO BROKE SENEGALESE LAWS WOULD BE PUNISHED. HE HAD

HOPED THAT FORCE WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY, BUT INNOCENT STUDENTS
AND SENEGAL'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM HAD TO BE PROTECTED AND FORCE
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WOULD BE THE ANSWER. SENGHOR SUGGESTED ELLIPTICALLY THAT GAMBIAN
HIGH COMMISSIONER OMADI DIARRA (ABSENT FROM DAKAR FOR SEVERAL
MONTHS) MAY HAVE HAD SOME ROLE; SENGHOR DID NOT GO INTO DETAILS
BUT MENTIONED THAT DIARRA HAD BEEN REPRESENTING GUINEAN INTERESTS
IN SENEGAL WITHOUT GOS AUTHORIZATION.

8. OUTCOME OF SITUATION REMAINS IN DOUBT, BUT LINES HAVE BEEN
CLEARLY DRAWN, WITH GOVERNMENT FORCED AT LAST INTO ACTION AFTER
WEEKS OF HESITATION IN EFFORT TO AVOID SHOWDOWN. SOME STUDENTS
HAVE BEEN VACATING UNIVERSITY DORMS TO AVOID GETTING INVOLVED IN
ANY VIOLENT CONFRONTATION, AND USIS OFFICER WITNESSED CROWD OF LYCEE
STUDENTS ESTIMATED AT 1500 CIRCULATING THROUGH STREETS MAY 2.
THOUGH SECURITY FORCES ARE POSITIONED PROMINENTLY IN VICINITY
OF DAKAR CAMPUSES, THERE IS WIDE UNDERSTANDING IN GOVERNMENT
OF NEED TO AVOID VIOLENT CLASH WHICH COULD BE EXPLOITED BY AGITATORS.
EVIDENCE OF GOS' CONFIDENCE THAT MATTER CAN BE MANAGED IS
FACT THAT, AS STUDENT STRIKE HAS WIDENED OVER RECENT WEEKS,
SENGHOR HAS MOVED FORWARD WITH PLANS FOR VISIT TO WEST GERMANY
BEGINNING MAY 2.
AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAKAR03046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770154-0600
Format: TEL
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705101/aaaadjde.tel
Line Count: 198
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: a7cb5087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 DAKAR 2892
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2321512
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT (GOS) RESPONDS FIRMLY TO STRIKING STUDENTS
TAGS: PINS, SG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7cb5087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009